12.00 Noon

the appointment process is completed. The approximate average life of this entire consultation process is about six months. From the moment a recommendation is received, it takes about six months, if all goes in the normal course, before it can be notified. Now, Mr. Sibal wanted to know where really the delay is. Normally, this six months, except in exceptional cases, is the period which we spend. The delay is really in receiving the initial recommedations. As far as the consultation with the Supreme Court is concerned, there is no delay. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: So, the Government is not at fault. It is the Judiciary which is at fault. I would like to know whether it is the fact.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I have just given you the figures. It is after detailed persuasion and repeated letters by the Law Minister as also the Chief Justice of India that in the last one or two months we have started getting more recommendations, and as against 156, today, we are still with only half of them, that is, 80 recommendations. (*Interruptions*)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, in the Delhi High Court, there are 8 vacancies (*Interruptions*)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: The whole judicial process requires to be revamped and the methodology must be changed. What is the hon. Minister's view on this?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I agree with Mr. Sibal. We have already introduced a Constitution Amendment Bill, as far as the Parliament is concerned. The Standing Committee headed by Shri Pranab Mukherjee is seized with it. Whatever consensus that you can develop in that Standing Committee, we are willing to comply with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Unauthorised Tobacco Barns in Karnataka

*83. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unauthorised tobacco barns in Karnataka;

(b) whether there is any proposal from Karnataka to regularise these unauthorised tobacco barns; and

(c) whether in view of the drought in Karnataka, Government would come to the rescue of farmers of the State and allow unregistered farmers to market their produce at one per cent service charge?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) There were about 29,774 unauthyorised Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco barns in Karnataka upto June, 2003.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka has asked for regularisation of unauthorized barns.

(c) A nominal penalty of Rs. 1.50 per kilogram plus one per cent of the sale proceeds, has been levied, on marketing of the excess FCV tobacco of registered growers and unauthorised FCV tobacco of unregistered growers during the crop season 2003-04.

Policy for development of tribals and dalits

†*84. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by Government in the rural areas to as certain where the percentage of tribal and dalit children is higher;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether any specific policy has been implemented by Government to provide health, education and the opportunities to move forward to the tribal and dalit children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not conducted any survey in rural areas about the ST, SC and other children. However, the Registrar General of India conducts Census in the country after every 10 years. According to 1991 Census for which the published data is available for ST and SC

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.